

I CLAIM:

1. A children's ride-on vehicle, comprising:

a body having at least one seat for a child and a battery compartment adapted to receive a battery assembly, wherein the battery compartment includes an aperture sized to permit a battery assembly to be selectively inserted into and removed from the battery compartment, and further wherein the battery compartment includes a distal region that is spaced apart from the aperture;

a battery-powered motor assembly;

at least one user input device adapted to actuate the battery-powered motor assembly;

a steering assembly including a steering mechanism adapted to receive steering inputs from a child sitting on the at least one seat;

a plurality of wheels rotatably coupled to the body, wherein the plurality of wheels includes at least one driven wheel adapted to be rotationally driven by the battery-powered motor assembly and at least one steerable wheel adapted to receive steering inputs from the steering assembly;

a battery assembly adapted to provide power to the battery-powered motor assembly; and

a battery retainer assembly adapted to selectively retain the battery assembly within the battery compartment, the battery retainer assembly comprising:

a retaining member comprising:

a base portion adapted to selectively engage a distal surface of the battery assembly; and

a retaining portion coupled to the base portion and adapted to selectively obstruct removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment through the aperture, wherein the retaining member is adapted to be selectively moved between at least a first position, in which the base portion extends generally between the aperture and the distal region of the battery compartment and the retaining portion is positioned to permit the battery assembly to be removed from the battery compartment through the aperture, and a second position, in which the base portion is moved generally away from the aperture relative to the first position and the retaining portion is positioned to obstruct removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment through the aperture.

2. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the base portion is adapted to displace the battery assembly away from the distal region of the battery compartment when the retaining member is moved from the second position to the first position.

3. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 2, wherein in the first position, the base portion is adapted to displace the battery assembly sufficiently away from the distal region of the battery compartment for a portion of the battery assembly to extend through the aperture and out of the battery compartment.

4. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 2, wherein the battery assembly includes a proximal surface that generally faces the aperture when the battery assembly is inserted into the battery compartment and the retaining member is in the second position, and further wherein in the second position, the retaining portion is adapted to extend across at least a portion of the proximal surface of the battery assembly.

5. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 4, wherein in the second position, the retaining portion is adapted to engage the proximal surface of the battery assembly.

6. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 4, wherein in the second position, the retaining portion is adapted to extend in a spaced-apart relationship with the proximal surface of the battery assembly.

7. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 4, wherein the retaining portion is coupled to the base portion by a pair of arms that respectively extend along opposed sides of the battery assembly when the battery assembly is inserted into the battery compartment and the retaining member is in the second position.

8. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the retaining member includes a handle adapted to be selectively grasped by a user to move the retaining member between the first position and the second position.

9. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 8, wherein the handle projects from the retaining portion.

10. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 8, wherein in at least the first position, at least a portion of the handle extends through the aperture and out of the battery compartment.

11. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, further including a coupling assembly adapted to couple the retaining member relative to the battery compartment, wherein the coupling assembly is adapted to define a path of travel for the retaining member between at least the first position and the second position.

12. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 11, wherein the coupling assembly is integrally formed with the battery compartment.

13. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 11, wherein the coupling assembly includes track members that define the path of travel for the retaining member between at least the first and second positions.

14. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 13, wherein the path of travel is defined by channels in the track members, within which portions of the retaining member travel.

15. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 14, wherein the retaining member further includes protrusions adapted to slidably travel within the channels as the retaining member is configured between at least the first position and the second position.

16. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 11, wherein the coupling assembly includes at least one detent adapted to retain the retaining member in at least the first position.

17. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 16, wherein the retaining member is adapted to automatically move to the second position upon disengagement of the retaining member from the at least one detent.

18. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 17, wherein the retaining member is adapted to be disengaged from the at least one detent by movement of the retaining member generally toward the aperture of the battery compartment.

19. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the retaining member is further adapted to be selectively moved to an intermediate position in which the base portion is spaced away from the distal region of the battery compartment and the retaining portion obstructs removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment.

20. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 19, wherein the intermediate position is above the second position.

21. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the battery compartment is sized to provide insufficient clearance for a user's hand to extend between the battery assembly and the battery compartment and remove the battery assembly from the battery compartment.

22. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the base portion and the retaining portion are adapted to move as a unit relative to the battery compartment.

23. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 22, wherein the base portion and the retaining portion are integrally formed with each other.

24. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the battery retainer assembly is adapted to selectively retain the retaining member in the first position.

25. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 24, further including a coupling assembly adapted to couple the retaining member relative to the battery compartment and define a path of travel for the retaining member, wherein the coupling assembly includes at least one detent adapted to retain the retaining member in the first position.

26. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 25, wherein the retaining member is adapted to automatically move to the second position upon disengagement from the at least one detent.

27. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the vehicle further comprises a removable cover that is adapted to extend over the aperture to prevent access to the battery compartment.

28. A children's ride-on vehicle having at least a first battery-powered component, the vehicle comprising:

    a body having at least one seat for a child and a battery compartment adapted to receive a battery assembly, wherein the battery compartment includes an aperture sized to permit a battery assembly to be selectively inserted into and removed from the battery compartment;

    a battery-powered motor assembly;

    at least one user input device adapted to actuate the battery-powered motor assembly;

    a plurality of wheels rotatably coupled to the body;

    a battery assembly adapted to provide power to the battery-powered motor assembly; and

    a battery retainer assembly adapted to selectively retain the battery assembly within the battery compartment, the battery retainer assembly comprising a retaining member coupled for pivotal movement relative to the battery assembly, wherein the retaining member is adapted to be moved between a closed position, in which the retaining member obstructs removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment through the aperture, and an open position, in which the retaining member does not obstruct removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment through the aperture and in which the retaining member is adapted to displace the battery assembly at least partially through the aperture.

29. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, wherein the battery assembly includes a proximal surface that generally faces the aperture when the battery assembly is inserted into the battery compartment and the retaining member is in the closed position, and further wherein in the closed position, a retaining portion of the retaining member is adapted to extend across at least a portion of the proximal surface of the battery assembly.

30. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 29, wherein the retaining member further includes a handle, and further wherein in at least the open position, at least a portion of the handle extends through the aperture and out of the battery compartment.

31. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, wherein the battery assembly includes a proximal surface that generally faces the aperture when the battery assembly is inserted into the battery compartment and the retaining member is in the closed position, a distal surface that generally faces away from the aperture when the battery assembly is inserted into the battery compartment and the retaining member is in the closed position, and a plurality of sides extending between the proximal surface and the distal surface, and further wherein the retaining member defines a frame that extends around at least the proximal surface, the distal surface and one side of the battery assembly.

32. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, further including a coupling assembly adapted to couple the retaining member relative to the battery compartment.

33. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 32, wherein the coupling assembly includes track members adapted to define a path of travel for the retaining member between at least the first position and the second position.

34. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 33, wherein the path of travel is defined by channels formed in the track members, and further wherein portions of the retaining member are adapted to slidably engage with the channels.

35. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 34, wherein the retaining member further includes protrusions adapted to slidably engage with the channels.

36. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 35, wherein the channels include at least one detent adapted to retain the retaining member in at least the open position.

37. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 36, wherein the retaining member is adapted to be disengaged from the at least one detent by movement of the retaining member generally toward the aperture of the battery compartment.

38. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, wherein the retaining member is further adapted to be selectively moved to an intermediate position, above the closed position, in which the retaining portion obstructs removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment.

39. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, wherein the retaining member is adapted to automatically move to the closed position upon insertion of the battery assembly into the battery compartment and engagement of the retaining member by the battery assembly.

40. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, wherein the retaining member is biased to move to the open position.

41. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 28, wherein the battery compartment includes sidewalls adapted to restrict movement of the battery assembly within the battery compartment to translation into and out of the battery compartment.

42. A children's ride-on vehicle having at least a first battery-powered component, the vehicle comprising:

    a body having at least one seat for a child and a battery compartment adapted to receive a battery assembly, wherein the battery compartment includes an aperture sized to permit a battery assembly to be selectively inserted into and removed from the battery compartment;

    a battery-powered motor assembly;

    at least one user input device adapted to actuate the battery-powered motor assembly;

    a plurality of wheels rotatably coupled to the body;

    a battery assembly adapted to provide power to the battery-powered motor assembly; and

    a battery retainer assembly adapted to selectively retain the battery assembly within the battery compartment, the battery retainer assembly comprising a retaining member coupled for sliding movement relative to the battery assembly, wherein the retaining member is adapted to be moved between an obstructed position, in which the retaining member obstructs removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment through the aperture, and an unobstructed position, in which the retaining member does not obstruct removal of the battery assembly from the battery compartment through the aperture and in which the retaining member is adapted to displace the battery assembly at least partially through the aperture.